(ii) Substantial reduction in Internet, International Private Leased Circuits (IPLC) and Internet Service Providers (ISP) tariffs as compared to tariffs prevailing in the same period of last year.

(c) VSNL is expanding its Internet Service and planning to enter National Long Distance (NLD) service to generate additional revenues.

Working of T.E.C.

3876 SHRI R. S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to convert Telecom Engineer Centre into an Autonomous Information Communication and Entertainment Standards Institute of India to face the challenges of the post liberalisation era;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. A. Mashelkar has been constituted to review working of T.E.C.;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The report of the above Committee has just been received on 23rd of August, 2001 (in the evening). The above report is under examination by the Government.

Payment of Telephone Bills at Syndicate Bank, Ghaziabad

†3877. SHRI GANDHI AZAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some branches of Syndicate Bank were authorised to accept payments of all types of telephone bills for the convenience of customers by the BSNL in Ghaziabad;

(b) whether this facility has now been withdrawn;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.